REMARKS

The following is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated May 28, 2010, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on August 28, 2010. The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Cheng (U.S. Patent No. 7,274,694). The Examiner rejected claims 2-9, 14, 19, 27, 29, 36-41, and 52 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng in view of Goldberg (U.S. Patent App. No. 2004/0013112).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and §103(a)

Amended claim 1 recites the limitations of storing the ART index and the packet information in a data structure associated with a state table that associates data structures with NAT address information. None of the cited references teaches or suggests these limitations.

Cheng discloses two indexes: a "Index" and an "destindex to the Local Forwarding Descriptor table." See Cheng at col. 3, lines 41-53. None of these indexes is stored in the particular manner required by claim 1.

The index to the Local Forwarding Descriptor table disclosed in Cheng is stored in a content addressable memory (CAM). See Cheng at col. 3, lines 41-53. Cheng teaches that fields in a packet could be used as a key to a lookup in the CAM. However, there is no teaching that packet information is stored with the index to the Local Forwarding table. Also, Cheng does not teach anything about associating the packet information and the index to the Local Forwarding table with a state table associating data structures with NAT address information, as now claimed. Consequently, Cheng does not disclose or suggest any structure that could be equaled to the claimed state table. See, e.g., Applicants' Specification at Fig. 9B.

Regarding the destIndex, Cheng teaches that "[t]he entries in the Local Forwarding Descriptor table contain information for packet forwarding and a destIndex... [t]he destIndex is used to access a descriptor in the Destination Map Table." See Cheng at col. 3, lines 48-51. Cheng further discloses that the destIndex is an index that is used to access a descriptor in the Destination Map Table. See Cheng at col. 4, lines 24-26. Applicants submit that the teachings of Cheng do not establish

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that either the Destination Map Table or the Local Forwarding Descriptor table is a state table that associates data structures with NAT address information, as now specifically recited in claim 1. <u>See</u> <u>also</u> Applicants' Specification at Fig. 9B. Cheng simply has no such teachings. In sum, Cheng discloses no structure that can be properly equaled to the state table, now recited in amended claim 1.

Goldberg fails to cure the deficiencies of Cheng discussed above. After conducting a detailed review of Goldberg, Applicants submit that the reference has no relevant teachings.
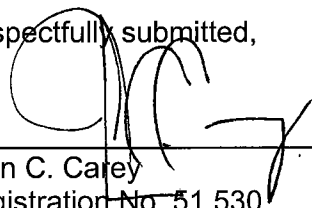
As the foregoing illustrates, the combination of the cited references fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 1. Therefore, the references cannot anticipate or render obvious claim 1 or claims 2-9, dependent thereon. For this reason, Applicants submit that claims 1-9 are in condition for allowance.

Independent claims 14 and 31 recite limitations similar to those discussed in conjunction with claim 1. Therefore, claims 14 and 31 are allowable for at least the same reasons as allowable claim 1. Claims 19, 27, and 29 depend on allowable claim 14 and, therefore, are also in condition for allowance. Claims 36-41 and 52 depend on allowable claim 31 and, therefore, are also in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above remarks, Applicants believe that they have overcome all of the objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action mailed May 28, 2010, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, please contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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John C. Carey
Registration No. 51,530
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicants